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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
LANSING

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DIRECTOR

October 3, 2018

The Honorable Gary Glenn, Chair  
House Committee on Energy Policy  
Michigan House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Chairman Glenn and Committee Members:

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is pleased to support SB 637 which would help to streamline the process for the installation of small cell wireless facilities throughout the state.

As has always been the case, Michigan is leading the way in automotive research and technology development and MDOT along with our partners at the American Center for Mobility (ACM), is proud to be a part of that effort. For example, at the ACM, they are making tremendous strides in the development of the automated vehicle technology that will one day enable us all to enjoy a safer and generally better driving experience.

However, to soundly test, scale, and ultimately, implement this kind of groundbreaking equipment, the wireless technology connecting us must keep pace with the advances research and development are making. For that reason, we ask that your support of SB 637, which will expediate investment in the wireless infrastructure Michigan needs, if we hope to remain at the forefront of driverless technology.

SB 637 streamlines the procedures associated with deploying small cell technology in the right-of-way, which is critical to the widespread implementation of safe self-driving technology. For a vehicle to be fully connected and automated, it needs to be able to 'talk' to the everyone and everything around it, and this equipment can help to ensure that communication can take place. Small cell technology not only strengthens and expands the reach of existing wireless signals, but it will also help usher in the 5G infrastructure needed to fully unleash the potential of connected cars.

MDOT has participated in countless hours of negotiation with stakeholders to arrive at the bill in front of you today. In addition to the transportation purpose that this technology can serve, the bill allows MDOT to cover our costs for processing the applications and puts a priority on colocation of units on existing infrastructure to minimize the safety impacts in the right-of-way.

For all of these reasons, we ask your support of SB 637. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Phil Browne  
Director of Governmental Affairs